

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were pending in this application as a result of the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 7, 2006. A review of the Image File Wrapper reveals that the Preliminary Amendment is of record. Please correct item 4 regarding the disposition of the claims in the next Action.

In order to expedite prosecution, the scope of the claims has been amended.

- (1) The subject matter of present claims 3 and 4 have been incorporated into present claim 1 to make amended claim 1.

In amended claim 1,

- (a) the definition of "n" in the formula (IIb) has been restricted to "an integer of 2 to 5". This amendment is fully supported by the disclosure on page 8, lines 8-10 of the specification;
- (b) the term "lower" has been amended to "C₁₋₆". This amendment is fully supported by the disclosure on page 6, lines 15-18, page 9, lines 6-8, and page 9, lines 13-15 of the specification;

- (c) the term "lower alkyl" being an optional substitute has been defined as "C₁₋₃ alkyl".

Basis is found on page 8, lines 15-16 of the specification;

- (d) the term "a heterocyclic group" of R¹ has been restricted to "a tetrahydrofuranyl group or a tetrahydropyranyl group". This amendment is fully supported by the disclosure on page 8, line 18 and page 9, lines 4-5 of the specification; and

- (e) the definition of R³ has been restricted to "hydrogen or a straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl or is selected from the group consisting of cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl". For original basis attention is drawn to page 9, lines 13-17 and the reference to the definition of R¹ on page 6, lines 17-18 of the specification.

- (2) In amended claim 3, the definition of "n" in the formula (IIb) has been restricted to "an integer of 2 to 5". This amendment is fully supported by the disclosure based on page 8, lines 8-10 of the specification.

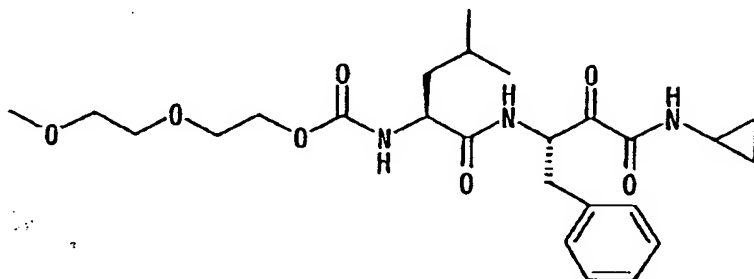
- (3) Present claims 2, 4, 5 and 12-19 have been deleted.

- (4) In amended claim 7, the compound "((1S)-1-(((1S)-1-benzyl-2,3-dioxo-3-(cyclopropylamino)propyl)amino)carbonyl)-3-methylbutyl)carbamic acid 2-methoxyethyl ester" recited on lines 1-3 of present claim 7 has been deleted.

This is because the compound does not fall into the scope of amended claim 1.

(5) As a single species claim, new claim 20 has been added which is supported on lines 4-6 of claim 7.

In response to the species requirement, Applicants elect the species which is set forth in new claim 20. The chemical structure is shown below.



Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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